

Please add the following claims:

- -2. (New) The novel set of oligonucleotide primers according to claim 1, said set of primers consisting of:

PI-1(F) 5' AGTATGGGGAATGAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and

PI-2(R) 5' ACAATTTTCCCACGA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 2).

3. (New) The novel set of oligonucleotide primers according to claim 1, said set of primers consisting essentially of:

PI-1(F) 5' AGTATGGGGAATGAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and

PI-2(R) 5' ACAATTTTCCCACGA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 2).- -

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 4, 2002 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is considered that claim 1 as rewritten overcomes the claim objections and the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112. Support for the language "set of primers" is found in lines 3 and 4 of page 5 of the description.

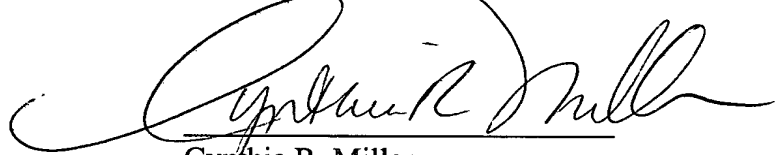
As claim 1 as rewritten claims the combination of both primers, this claim also is considered to satisfy the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) since neither Kuppe, et al., nor Myers, R.M. teaches the claimed novel set of oligonucleotide primers. In the absence of such teaching in the cited art, it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be withdrawn.

New dependent claims 2 and 3 find support in claim 1 and are provided to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. These claims are considered to be patentable over the cited art for the same reasons as claim 1.

A marked version of claim 1 is submitted herewith on a separate page to aid the Examiner in locating the amendments.

A petition and fee for extension of time for three months also is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia R. Miller', is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A novel set of nucleotide primers [primer] for phosphatidyl inositol in *B.cereus*, said set of primers [primer] comprising:

PI-1(F) 5' AGTATGGGGAATGAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 1) and

PI-2(R) 5' ACAATTTTCCACGA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 2).